

MEETING MINUTES
STATE CONSUMER AND FAMILY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 13, 2005

Present: Carl Britton-Watkins, Terry Burgess, Zack Commander, Kathleen Herr, Ron Kendrick, Ed Masters, Doug Michaels, Ellen Perry, Barbara Richards and Amelia Thorpe.

Absent: Jere Annis, Pete Clary and Ron Huber.

Resigned: Betty Stanberry.

DMH/DD/SAS Staff Present: Cathy Kocian, Chris Phillips, Ann Remington, Jesse Sowa and Leza Wainwright.

Guests: Carolyn Privott and Gerri Smith.

Welcome and Introductions

- ◆ The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M.
- ◆ The Vice Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. Members received copies of the Rules of Procedure and Code of Conduct to review.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- ◆ The meeting agenda was approved with additions.
- ◆ The August 2005 minutes were reviewed and approved with changes.

3. SCFAC Meeting Dates

- ◆ The SCFAC members discussed meeting locations for the 2006 meetings. It was agreed that it is most cost effective to hold the majority of meetings in Raleigh.
- ◆ Discussion included the SCFAC budget and the fact that the State cannot change the amount of mileage reimbursement pertaining to transportation costs irregardless of the increase in gasoline prices.
- ◆ The Committee voted to maintain the option of holding two meetings outside of Raleigh in 2006 in order to allow for public comment time in the Eastern and Western part of the state. The locations for these meetings have yet to be determined.

4. Public Comment Time

- ◆ SCFAC members expressed their regrets regarding the tragedy that occurred in the Sandhills area involving the family of three who unexpectedly died as a result of homicide/suicide.

5. SCFAC Retreat

- ◆ The committee has requested the use of an external facilitator to assist with the strategic planning process for the upcoming year. Some of the agenda issues to be covered include:
 - * Priorities,
 - * Objectives,
 - * The possibility of opening up more at-large seats,
 - * Responsibilities of the SCFAC,
 - * Effective ways to recruit SCFAC members and
 - * Identifying member skill sets needed.

Approved

- ◆ The SCFAC agreed that the retreat needs to be held in the near future in place of the regular SCFAC meeting. It was noted that the retreat should be held after current attempts at increasing membership yield results.
- ◆ The group agreed that the SCFAC needs to evaluate the progress of their work every four months.

6. Division Update with Leza Wainwright, DMH/DD/SAS Deputy Director

- ◆ Ms. Wainwright stated that Division and DMA staff met with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in Atlanta, GA. last week to discuss the proposed service definitions. It appears there is a strong commitment from CMS to move forward with approval of the service definitions. A teleconference is scheduled on October 24, 2005 to further discuss the service definitions. If there are no more requests for information made by CMS, approval should occur on or before November 27, 2005.
- ◆ Leza gave an overview of the Department's LME Cost Efficiency Proposal. The reform statute called for administrative efficiencies in management of community services eventually resulting in no more than 20 LMEs. The rate of LME mergers to date makes it obvious that this goal will not be realized. Therefore, the Secretary has proposed that two LME functions, Utilization Review and after hours Screening, Triage, and Referral be managed on a regional basis by 10 LMEs. This proposal will not impact services and increases the likelihood that the LMEs selected to perform these functions will be able to maintain the necessary appropriately credentialed staff. Having ten LMEs perform UR would also increase the number of highly trained clinical staff, currently being utilized in 31 LMEs in this administrative role, to provide services. This proposal does not require LMEs to merge or consolidate the other functions assigned to the LME. It allows the Medicaid UR function to remain in the community and maintains a physical presence in each catchment area for Screening, Triage and Referral during regular business hours.
- ◆ The General Assembly budget funded Medicaid with a 7.5% growth expectation. Unfortunately, Medicaid costs actually grew 11%. The first priority for Medicaid is to fund services. Therefore, Medicaid funds to pay for administrative costs are not available. Last year, the Division paid out \$159 million to LMEs to perform administrative functions and \$25 million was provided by Medicaid on a one-time basis to cover costs. It is the intention of the Department plan to promote the most cost effective model possible while also ensuring that staffing needs and workforce issues are addressed.
- ◆ The selection process for choosing the ten regional "Lead LMEs" will be driven by considering staff competence and price. CMS wants to ensure that a distinct firewall exists between service delivery and utilization review which includes separate accounting records, directors and perhaps even different locations for the two functions.
- ◆ The SCFAC clarified their request for a presentation on service eligibility and funding. The committee has requested a one page report from Division on funding and further information on the eligibility of target populations.

7. SCFAC Discussion of the Department's LME Cost Efficiency Proposal

- ◆ The State CFAC voted to endorse the Secretary's LME Cost Efficiency Proposal.
- ◆ The SCFAC has requested information on the amount of county money provided for indigent care (per county/per capita).
- ◆ One member read aloud and commented on the NC Council of Community Program's press release entitled "Area Programs Offer Response to Proposed Budget Cuts by DHHS" and also read the 13 points suggested in the "Final Proposal for Consideration by the (N.C. Council) Membership."
- ◆ There was a SCFAC member present at all three ELT meetings that took place involving the discussion of this proposal. SCFAC members requested that ELT provide the committee with up-to-date information and prepare the SCFAC members in advance regarding all new developments involving the implementation of the Secretary's plan.
- ◆ A motion was made to endorse the Secretary's proposal as written and support the regionalization of the two LME functions (Utilization Review and after-hours Screening, Triage, and Referral). The SCFAC Vice Chair will write a letter to the Secretary supporting the proposal. One member opposed regionalizing UR and preferred that UR remain local for the DD population.
- ◆ The SCFAC members have requested that the Division of MH/DD/SAS provide the committee with a one page report of the budget.

8. ELT Update

- ◆ Since substantive discussion of the LME Cost Efficiency Proposal had already occurred, the proposal was not presented during the ELT update.
- ◆ Three new rules to be reviewed in the Commission's October Rules Committee meeting were discussed at the August 23, 2005 ELT meeting:
 - Provider Endorsement,
 - Controlled Substances Reporting System and
 - State level appeals for non-Medicaid clients.
- ◆ At the September 6, 2005 ELT meeting, there was discussion of travel restrictions and disaster response issues that arose due to the hurricane. In addition, the team discussed the Cultural Competency Training and Curriculum that is presently being developed.
- ◆ During the September 27, 2005 ELT meeting, the Mental Health Trust Fund Plan was reviewed as was the Allocation of Expansion Funds. During this meeting the Division's Annual Report was discussed and Steve Hairston gave an update of the Long Range Plan requested by the Legislature.

9. Substance Abuse Task Group

- ◆ Mike Moseley established a Substance Abuse Task Group to make recommendations to the ELT regarding the expansion of substance abuse services in NC. The recent rise in state operated hospital admissions is due, in part, to individuals with substance abuse issues entering the hospital for treatment. Chris reported that the group created recommendations which will be vetted to a group of stakeholders in order to receive input. SCFAC member, Carl Britton-Watkins, will be a part of this process.

10. SCFAC Sub-Committee Reports

Approved

- ◆ *Continue Research, Dissemination and Implementation of New Best Practices* (State Plan 2004- p.54) – Barbara Richards, Committee Chair, stated that her committee is finishing up with the review of the clinical workbooks associated with the best practice tool kits. It is this group's goal to provide its final report and bring recommendations to the SCFAC in December 2005.
- ◆ *Continue Quality Improvement Efforts to Assure Model Fidelity of Supports and Services* (State Plan 2004- p. 54) – Kathleen Herr's report was read by Carl Britton-Watkins. The committee plans to develop a position paper addressing fidelity scales, SAMHSA toolkit information and history and status of the evidenced-based best practices which the state has endorsed. The paper will include recommendations to the Division.
- ◆ *Advance the Opportunities for People with Disabilities and their Families to Influence the Full Range of System – From Policy Leadership to More Discrete Operations* (State Plan 2004- p. 47) – Ron Huber attended a meeting in Raleigh to discuss ways his committee might address this issue. The group plans to discuss ways to effectively communicate with the local CFAC groups across the state.
- ◆ *Develop Provider and LME Report Cards* (State Plan 2004-p. 58) – Jere Annis will be the lead person on this committee. A Division staff person on the Quality Management Team will work with SCFAC members in order to move forward with the project.

11. Priorities 2006

- ◆ The SCFAC decided to discuss priorities for the upcoming year at its next meeting. Each member has been asked to submit three priority ideas/items prior to the next meeting.

12. Next Meeting

- ◆ The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2005 from 9:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. and will be held at the Dorothea Dix Hospital Campus in the Royster Building in Room 116.

13. November Meeting Agenda

- ◆ Approval of the Agenda.
- ◆ Approval of the October meeting minutes.
- ◆ Facilitated Retreat in lieu of regular meeting.
- ◆ There will be two public comment periods.
- ◆ ELT Update.
- ◆ Presentation on Eligibility and Funding.
- ◆ Review SCFAC Applications.
- ◆ Establish Sub-committee procedures for submitting final reports.
- ◆ Division Update.